What is claimed:

1. A purified and isolated DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding human M-Ras or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

2. A purified and isolated DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding murine M-Ras or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

3. The purified and isolated DNA molecule of claim 1 or 2, wherein said DNA molecule is genomic.

4. A chemically synthesized DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding human M-Ras or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

5. A chemically synthesized DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding murine M-Ras or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

6. A purified and isolated RNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding human M-Ras or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

7. A purified and isolated RNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding murine M-Ras or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

8. A purified and isolated polypeptide having an amino acid sequence comprising human M-Ras or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

9. A purified and isolated polypeptide having an amino acid sequence comprising murine M-Ras or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

10. A method of alleviating asthma-related disorders by administering to patients in need of such treatment an equivalent amount of a compound to down-regulate the function of human M-Ras.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the compound comprises a farnesyl transferase inhibitor.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the farnesyl transferase inhibitor is manumycin A.

13. A method according to claim 11 wherein the farnesyl transferase inhibitor is lovastatin.

14. A method according to claim 10 wherein the compound comprises a geranylgeranyl transferase inhibitor.

15. A method according to claim 10 wherein the compound comprises an aminosterol.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the aminosterol is 1409.

17. A method according to claim 10 wherein the compound comprises an inhibitor of the MAPK pathway.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the inhibitor of the MAPK pathway is PD98059.